

--Cross-Reference to Related Applications--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 1-14, without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claim 15, and add new claims 16-47, as follows:

Sub 1
C1

15. (Amended) A method of providing direct blood flow between a heart chamber and a coronary vessel, the method comprising the steps of:
inserting an instrument through an anterior wall of the coronary vessel;
further inserting the instrument through a posterior wall of the coronary vessel
and a heart wall between the heart chamber and the coronary vessel to form a
passageway in the heart wall; and
inserting a nonrigid implant within the passageway.

Sub 1
C2

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the implant includes a stent.

17. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising expanding the implant
in the passageway.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein expanding the implant includes
expanding the implant from a collapsed configuration.

19. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the passageway in the heart wall
is formed via one of lasing, drilling, and boring.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

20. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein inserting the instrument includes inserting an incising instrument.

21. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein inserting the implant includes inserting an implant carrying a substance for delivery to the heart wall.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the substance is chosen from angiogenesis factors and nucleic acid instructions for angiogenesis factors.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the substance is for at least one of generating, stimulating, and enhancing blood vessel formation.

24. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein inserting the implant in the passageway includes inserting the implant via a catheter.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising advancing the catheter to the passageway via the heart chamber.

26. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising removing the instrument from the heart wall prior to inserting the implant.

27. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising advancing the implant past the posterior wall of the coronary vessel and into the passageway.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

28. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising advancing the implant past the anterior wall of the coronary vessel.

29. (New) A method of providing direct blood flow between a heart chamber and a coronary vessel, the method comprising the steps of:

inserting an instrument through an anterior wall of the coronary vessel;

further inserting the instrument through a posterior wall of the coronary vessel
and a heart wall between the heart chamber and the coronary vessel to form a passageway in the heart wall; and

inserting an implant within the passageway,

wherein the implant does not extend substantially along an axial direction of the
vessel.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the implant includes a stent.

31. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising expanding the implant in the passageway.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein expanding the implant includes expanding the implant from a collapsed configuration.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

33. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the passageway in the heart wall is formed via one of lasing, drilling, and boring.

34. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein inserting the instrument includes inserting an incising instrument.

35. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein inserting the implant includes inserting an implant carrying a substance for delivery to the heart wall.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the substance is chosen from angiogenesis factors and nucleic acid instructions for angiogenesis factors.

37. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the substance is for at least one of generating, stimulating, and enhancing blood vessel formation.

38. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein inserting the implant in the passageway includes inserting the implant via a catheter.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, further comprising advancing the catheter to the passageway via the heart chamber.

40. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising removing the instrument from the heart wall prior to inserting the implant.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

41. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising advancing the implant past the posterior wall of the coronary vessel and into the passageway.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, further comprising advancing the implant past the anterior wall of the coronary vessel.

43. (New) A method of providing direct blood flow between a heart chamber and a coronary vessel, the method comprising the steps of:
providing a medical instrument carrying an implant on an external portion of the instrument;
puncturing an anterior wall and a posterior wall of a coronary vessel via the medical instrument;
inserting the instrument into a heart wall between the heart chamber and the coronary vessel; and
placing the implant into the heart wall.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the implant comprises an absorbable plug.

45. (New) The method of claim 43, further comprising allowing the implant to be absorbed by the heart wall.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com